

eminent, arrived. He had been appointed to attend Napoleon. Fouché knew that General Becker had grievances against the Emperor, and thought to find in him a willing agent. He was greatly deceived, for the General paid to the Emperor a degree of respect highly to his honor. Time now became pressing. The Emperor, at the moment of departure, sent a message by General Becker himself to the Provisional Government, offering to march as a private citizen at the head of the troops. He promised to repulse Blücher, and after-ward, of giving orders to General Becker not to separate himself from the person of Napoleon whilst the latter shall remain in the Roads.

(Signed) THE DUKE OF
OTRANTO.

The Duke of Otranto to the Minister of Marine.

PARIS, 27th June, 1815,
Noon.

SIR — The Commission reminds you of the instructions which it caused to be transmitted to you an hour ago. It is necessary that the resolution should be executed as directed by the Commission yesterday, and according to which Napoleon Bonaparte will remain in the Roads of Aix until the passage of the ports shall arrive.

The interest of the State, which cannot be indifferent to him, requires that he shall remain there until his own fate and that of his family shall be definitively arranged. Every measure shall be employed in order that the negotiation may be settled to his satisfaction. The honor of France is interested in it, but meanwhile every possible precaution must be taken for the personal security of Napoleon, and that he does not quit the place which has been temporarily assigned to him.

The President of the Commission of Government.

(Signed) THE DUKE OF
OTRANTO.

The Minister of War to General Becker.

PARIS, 27th June,
1815.

SIR — I have the honor to transmit to you the resolutions annexed, which the Commission of Government charges you to notify to the Emperor Napoleon; observing to His Majesty that circumstances are so imperious that it has become indispensable that he should decide upon departing for the Isle of Aix. This resolution, observes the Commission, has been taken as much for the safety of his own person as for the welfare of the State, which must always be dear to him.

If His Majesty does not come to an early decision upon the notification of these resolutions, it is the intention of the Commission of Government that necessary measures should be taken to prevent the escape of His Majesty.

I repeat to you, Sir, that this resolution has been adopted for the welfare of the State, and for the personal security of the Emperor; and that the Commission of Government considers its prompt execution indispensable for the interest of His Majesty and of his family.

I have the honor to be, etc. [.....—..—..—.]

This letter remained unsigned. The Prince of Eckmühl (Davoust), with the name, nobleness of sentiment as distinguished Macdonald in 1814, at the moment of despatching it, observed to his secretary, "I will never sign that letter; do you sign it — that will be sufficient." The secretary, however, did not sign it (*Memorial*, tome I. pp. 26-30).